

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
1 NAME

HISTORIC U.S. Post Office -- Columbia, Mississippi

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

815 Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

28

COUNTY

Marion

CODE

91

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS (If applicable)

Memphis Field Real Estate and Buildings Office United States Postal Service

STREET & NUMBER

1 North Front Street

CITY, TOWN

Memphis

VICINITY OF

STATE

TN 38103

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Chancery Clerk's Office - Marion County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Chancery Clerk's Office

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

Mississippi

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

-None-

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

 DEPOSITORY FOR
 SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The United States Post Office in Columbia is located in the central business district approximately three blocks north of the Marion County Courthouse. It is Beaux Arts Classical in style. A limestone basement level rises above grade to an articulated water table of the same material. The elevated main floor is made accessible by a wide flight of granite stairs with cast iron railings. The stairs are additionally defined by masonry abutments and a pair of free-standing lamp standards. The exterior walls consist of one full story crowned by a wide limestone frieze and cornice with a substantial brick parapet wall and limestone coping above. The parapet shows a balustrade above the bays around the lobby portion of the building. The parapet hides a flat, built-up roof. The street facade has a five bay central pavillion flanked by a setback with two additional bays. A large rectangular portico with four limestone, Doric columns dominates the composition. Only the three central bays are covered by the portico. All windows are wooden casement type, six by six, with four additional lights both above and below each casement. The windows have carved lintels and sills, with panels beneath, all in limestone. The central doorway is articulated by a limestone surround, large transom with decorative metal grill, and cornice with a cast stand eagle centered above. Four fluted pilasters adorn the facade behind the columns of the portico. Other limestone pilasters rise to the entablature at the corners of the front lobby wing at the corners of the main block and between bays of the sidewalks. Two set backs occur behind the lobby wing on both the north and south facades. The south facade consists of five bays--three on the lobby wing and two behind. The north facade consists of three bays with one on the lobby wing and two behind on the workroom. A mailing platform and vestibule project from the rear (west) facade. A basement level extends around the rear portion of the building. Brick masonry laid in the common bond is used throughout along with extensive limestone detailing.

The interior plan (see attached plan drawings) consists of a large rectangular public lobby with a stairway to the mezzanine level on the north and with the postmaster's office behind. The remainder of the first floor level is given over to a large workroom and the aforementioned mailing platform to the rear. The mezzanine level consists of office space over the public lobby and a lookout gallery extending over the work area. The lobby contains a polychrome tile floor, marble wainscoting and sills, and stucco pilasters at regular intervals along the walls. The screenline has been altered but the original vestibule remains intact.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	March, 1931	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Dye-Mullins Const. Co., Columbia, Shourds & Bean (Architects)
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Politics/Government

The first Public Buildings Act of 1913 and the second Public Building Act of 1926 were supplemented in 1933 by Congress, on the urging of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, with the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works. Between 1933 and 1941 a tremendous amount of construction resulted in the United States, including four post offices in Mississippi constructed under the 1926 Act and thirty-two post offices in Mississippi constructed under 1933 PWA legislation.

The U.S. Post Office in Columbia, Mississippi, built in 1931, is significant as one of four constructed in the state under the Public Buildings Act of 1926. It was designed by Shourds and Bean of Gulfport, Mississippi and built by Dye and Mullins Construction Company of Columbia, Mississippi. The building holds the distinction of being the first federal building constructed in Marion County. The Post Office in Columbia was a part of a stepped up Public Works program designed by Herbert Hoover to relieve unemployment during the early stages of the Great Depression. (See also "Federal Construction Work 1913-1941").

Architecture

The Courthouse, the City Hall, and this Post Office represent the three most important governmental public buildings in the community. The fact that the architects, Shourds and Bean, are known is significant, and the resulting scheme, exemplary of Beaux Arts design in a classical idiom, represents a uniquely sophisticated architectural example in so small a town as Columbia. The most significant architectural features are the limestone pilasters and entablature which culminates at the projecting portico supported by four Doric columns.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See bibliography attached to narrative entitled "The Treasury Department's Section of the Fine Arts Program" and "Federal Construction Work 1913-1941."

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/4 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>16</u>	<u>229960</u>	<u>3461060</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated is indicated by the crossed ink lines on the accompanying U.S.G.S. map entitled Columbia North Quadrangle.

See Continuation Sheet for Verbal Boundary Description.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael W. Fazio, William E. Parrish,

ORGANIZATION

Tomas Blackwell, Curtis Franks

STREET & NUMBER

40 Eutaw Street

CITY OR TOWN

Starkville

DATE

October 1, 1979

TELEPHONE

(601) 323-3451

STATE

Mississippi

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

COLUMBIA, MS

A tract or parcel of land lying and being in the City of Columbia, County of Marion, and State of Mississippi, having a frontage of One Hundred and Forty (140) Feet on the West side of Main Street and extending of that width Two Hundred (200) Feet along the South side of the extension of Dale Street, located in Section 5, Township 3 North, Range 18 West, in Marion County, Mississippi. Recorded 19 May 1932, Book 101, Page 269, Chancery Clerk's Office, Marion County, State of Mississippi.

COLUMBIA

